

claims could be viewed as linked by a single, unifying concept. Thus, applicants respectfully submit that it would not present an undue burden for the Patent Office to search and examine all of the pending claims at one time. Thus, applicants respectfully request that the Patent Office examine all of claims 1-18 together.

CONCLUSIONS

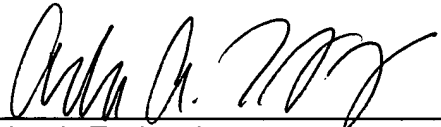
Should there be any minor issues outstanding in this matter, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney. Early passage of the subject application to issue is earnestly solicited.

Deposit Account

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with the filing of this correspondence to Deposit Account Number 50-0426.

Respectfully submitted,

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